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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PDA

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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [PTER](#) [CI](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAN AND ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM

11. On April 18, conservative, independent "La Tercera" (circ. 101,000) carried an editorial by political scientist Boris Yopo entitled "The United States and the Threat of War with Iran." Quotes:

12. "Iran's intentions are clear. It wants...the international community to recognize its status as a nuclear state and consolidate its status as a regional power.... The relevant question today is whether Iran would be willing to reach an understanding with the major powers on the U.N. Security Council. In exchange for abandoning its plans to build nuclear weapons, Iran would be recognized tacitly for its new role in the Middle East. Thus far, diplomatic pressure and sanctions have had no evident impact and the alternative scenario, one of a military escalation, would be a disaster for stability in the Middle East and would create an even greater polarization between the west and the Muslim world....

13. "The joint action of the five permanent UNSC members will be vital to avoid an escalation of the conflict. If this means preventing the escalation of nuclear proliferation... perhaps President Bush will have to accept the idea of leaving as a legacy his recognition of Iran as a new regional power. There is still time for diplomacy, but not much."

KELLY